

"Never forget her please, never forget her."

We can never repay that debt except to honor her memory, keep her sacrifice always in mind, and to draw inspiration from her dedication and devotion to God and country—to all those who sacrificed everything "to proclaim liberty throughout all the land and unto all the inhabitants thereof."

#### MI CASA RESOURCE CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Mi Casa Resource Center, now in their 45th year of service. Mi Casa was founded in 1976 by a group of eight Latina mothers who dreamed of a better world for themselves and their families. They wanted a safe space to develop skills for employment and education and expanded Mi Casa to include business development—delivering training for low-income entrepreneurs who just needed an opportunity.

Today, Mi Casa is a pillar for women, Latinos, or anyone looking for business or career support in the Denver metro area.

In the midst of the devastating pandemic, Mi Casa launched 45 new businesses, supported 45 Coloradans pivot to new careers, and reached more than 1,800 people overall. The transformational impact of Mi Casa on our community cannot be understated. I commend them for their remarkable work, and I congratulate Mi Casa Resource Center on their 45th anniversary.

#### COMMUNITY CHURCHES

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the efforts of several churches in my district that worked tirelessly to provide relief, support, and resources to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. They hosted food banks for those in need, provided financial help to those struggling to make ends meet, and sought out opportunities to support the social, spiritual, and emotional needs of members.

Our community is better because of them, and I recognize the volunteers who sacrificed their time, energy, and own well-being to provide relief to those who needed a lifeline extended to them. In a time of fear, they built a network of hope.

I thank the staff, volunteers, and members of Mosaic Church, Friendship Church, Word in Action Church, City of God Church, Confluence Ministries, Orchard Church, Northern Hills Church, Colorado Multiethnic Coalition, Renewal Christian Center, and Hard Rock Church.

The impact of this outreach in our communities is profound. I commend all involved for their ongoing effort to ensure that no one gets left behind.

#### CELEBRATING DOUGLAS COUNTY

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Douglas County in

Colorado's Sixth District for being named the second healthiest county in the United States by the U.S. News & World Report.

With all due respect to the rest of my colleagues, there is no State like Colorado. We are home to 300 days of sunshine, the Rocky Mountains, world-class outdoor recreation, and exceptional small businesses.

In a year defined by a devastating public health crisis, our State added another accomplishment: community health.

With six of America's top 257 healthiest communities in Colorado, Douglas County ranks second. Home to countless walking trails, community-building events, and innovative infrastructure solutions, Douglas County is a great place to live.

So come out to see what it is all about. I invite my colleagues to visit Douglas County and the rest of my incredible district to see for themselves what makes the Centennial State one of a kind.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF VITA LANTZ BROWN

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the career of Vita Lantz Brown. In Arapahoe County, the saying goes: If you want something done, ask Vita. And, if Vita asks you to do something, you just can't say no.

A force for change in our community, Vita's faith drives her devotion to good government and diverse leadership. Vita is civic-minded and is committed to ensuring elected officials at every level are working to better the community.

She devotes her time and energy to many organizations, including Moms Demand Action, the Aurora NAACP, and countless others. As a servant leader, she also supports her community by providing free babysitting, tutoring for children, volunteering at a local school, feeding the homeless, and serving as deaconess at Macedonia Baptist Church.

Vita's life work is inspired by 2 Timothy 4:7:

I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.

I thank Vita for her exemplary leadership, expertise, and commitment to our community.

#### 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF AURORA NAACP

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the 30th anniversary of Aurora, Colorado's NAACP branch.

In 1991 Dr. Barbara Shannon-Bannister founded the Aurora branch as an important step in a long career devoted to civil rights. She built upon the legacy of her father's work in her hometown of New Orleans and later moved to Wyoming where she helped form the NAACP Wyoming chapter.

She recognized a need in Aurora. Though Aurora was one of Colorado's fastest growing cities, it lacked essential advocacy on civil rights issues.

Dr. Shannon-Bannister addressed this gap by creating the Aurora branch of the NAACP.

I extend my gratitude to Dr. Shannon-Bannister, current president Omar Montgomery, and all who have dedicated their time and expertise to the Aurora NAACP over the last 30 years. I thank them for their commitment to the residents of my district and for continually working toward this crucial mission.

#### SERGEANT GEE COMMEMORATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great remorse. Two weeks ago, U.S. Sergeant Nicole Gee, a marine from Roseville, California, was tragically killed in action during the August 26 bombing at the Kabul International Airport in Afghanistan.

As a physician of 30 years, I have written hundreds of letters to families whose loved ones have passed away. The letters that I wrote to Sergeant Gee's family were amongst the hardest I have ever written. She gave her life in service and sacrifice to our Nation alongside 12 other marines and beloved U.S. servicemembers, all of whom we remember fondly with admiration, appreciation, and a deep and humble respect.

Just a few days prior, Sergeant Gee commented upon her life as a marine, and she said: "I love my job."

Prior to her mission in Afghanistan, Sergeant Gee had been a maintenance technician assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 24 of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Her unit was based out of the Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in my district.

I know I can speak for everyone in eastern North Carolina and the Camp Lejeune community in offering our most sincere condolences to Sergeant Gee's husband, fellow marine Jared Gee, as well as her family and loved ones during this extremely difficult time.

Sergeant Gee's bravery, empathy, patriotism, and unwavering commitment to others will never be forgotten. Her willingness to put herself in harm's way to protect her country and the cause of freedom is the most selfless act one can commit, and words are not enough to convey our district's sadness and our gratitude.

As a female marine, Sergeant Gee represented one of the fewer, one of the prouder. Women make up less than 10 percent of the Marine Corps, but these women carry the same flag, fight the same fight, and bleed the same red blood as their brothers on the battlefield.

Sergeant Nicole Gee's selflessness reminds us of the many sacrifices our women in uniform make for our country every day. We will never forget her